

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application with claim 22 amended. Applicant appreciates the courtesy of the Examiner during a telephone interview to discuss the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eitaki et al. (US 5278348). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Conventionally, tone generators are installed with preset tone colors. If a user wants to utilize tone colors different from the preset tone colors, he may utilize a tone color extension board to enable additional tone colors. The tone color extension board can be installed directly into the tone generator. After installation if the user wants to generate a specific sound pattern (e.g., arpeggio) using one of the extended tone colors, he cannot simply install another extension board. He must instead connect the tone generator with an additional device such as a sequencer.

The present invention relates to an extension board that enables expanded tone colors and functions without the need for other devices to be connected to the tone generator. Fig. 1 illustrates one embodiment. Main sound source device 1 is installed with a tone color extension board 3. The extension board 3 has ROM 33 for storing tone color setting data for the extended colors. A CPU 32 can act as a sequencer for generation of sound patterns such as arpeggio. The data for generation of sound patterns is forward to synthesizer 36 which generates musical tone signal of the prescribed sound pattern having the expanded tone colors. Thus, the extension board in Fig. 1 provides expanded tone colors and functions through its storage, CPU and synthesizer and obviates the need for an additional device to be connected to the main sound source device 1.

The Examiner contends that the ROM/RAM card 12 of Eitaki reads on the extension board of the present invention. The disclosed ROM/RAM card 12, however, is merely a storage media which is attachable or detachable from an electronic musical instrument. It can store sequence information, but it does not have a CPU acting as a sequencer nor does it have a

synthesizer. As illustrated in Fig. 1, CPU 5 is the CPU for the electronic musical instrument, not the ROM/RAM card 12.

Claims 15 and 18 recite a tone color extension board comprising a sequencer and a synthesizer. Similarly, claims 23, 24, 27 and 28 recite a tone color extension board with a synthesizer. Because Eitaki's ROM/RAM card 12 does not have a sequencer or synthesizer, claim 15 and its dependent claims, claim 18 and its dependent claims and claims 23, 24, 27 and 28 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Eitaki.

During the telephone interview, the Examiner acknowledged the limitation of Eitaki's ROM/RAM card 12, but noted that claim 9 recited a reproducing device. The Examiner contended that this term was broad and could encompass the ROM/RAM card 12 as set forth in Col. 5, lines 36-40. The Examiner's citation to Col. 5, lines 36-40 merely discloses that the processing is performed "on the basis of the sequence information stored in the . . . ROM/RAM card 12." If the Examiner contends that the term "reproducing device" covers storage functions relating to processing, then Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 recites an extension board with a storage device and a reproducing device for reproducing musical tone signals "in accordance with the pattern information stored in the storage device . . ." That is, the extension board of claim 9 recites two inter-operational elements with the reproducing device operating in accordance with information stored in the storage device.

In contrast, Eitaki fails to disclose both a storage device and a reproducing device present in the ROM/RAM card 12, in which the reproducing device operates in accordance with the information stored in the storage device. No such inter-operability between two devices is disclosed in Eitaki's ROM/RAM card 12. Accordingly, claim 9 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Eitaki. Claims 22 and 26 similarly recite a function expanding method performed by an extension board including the step of storing and step of reproducing "in accordance with the pattern information stored in said step of storing" and are likewise not anticipated by or obvious in view of Eitaki. It should be noted that claim 22 has been amended to be placed in better form.

Claims 1, 21 and 25 recite an extension board with a first storage device for storing pattern information and a reproducing device for reproducing musical tone signals "in accordance with the pattern information . . ." Eitaki's ROM/RAM card 12 does not have a storage device and a reproducing device operating in accordance with the information stored in the storage device as discussed above. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims, claim 21 and claim 25 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Eitaki.

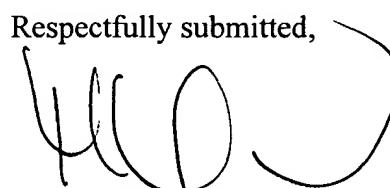
In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that it would advance prosecution, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032014800. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: August 12, 2003

By:

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